

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously amended) A protective packaging sheet, consisting of a single material layer having a repeating pattern;

the repeating pattern comprising shaped protuberances juxtaposed with each other to provide a gap around each of said shaped protuberances, the shaped protuberances being positioned in such a way that every straight line projected onto said sheet cuts through at least one of the shaped protuberances and at least one of the gaps.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (previously amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sheet has substantially equal contact areas at outermost levels on opposite sides thereof.

5. (previously amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the repeating pattern further comprises connecting webs connecting adjacent said shaped protuberances, said connecting webs being located at a middle level between uppermost and lowermost levels of said sheet.

6. (previously amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 5, wherein some of the connecting webs extend in a first direction and others extend in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

7. (previously amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shaped protuberances are tessellatable.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said material is thermoplastics, and a distance between uppermost and lowermost levels of said sheet is less than or equal to about 5 times a thickness of said material layer.

10. (previously amended) A protective packaging sheet, comprising front and rear surfaces, at least one of the surfaces having a repeating pattern therein;

the repeating pattern comprising shaped protuberances juxtaposed with each other to provide a gap around each of said shaped protuberances, the shaped protuberances being positioned in such a way that every straight line projected onto said sheet cuts through at least one of the shaped protuberances and at least one of the gaps;

wherein the gaps between the shaped protuberances are filled with insulating foam.

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously amended) A protective packaging sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the shaped protuberances comprises a top surface atop side walls which are rounded, beveled or sloped relative to a direction perpendicular to a plane of the packaging sheet.

13. (currently amended) The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said shaped protuberances together with said foam filled in said gaps define a **substantially** planar face.

14. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said foam overfills said gaps so as to protrude beyond an outermost face of said shaped protuberances.

15. (currently amended) The protective packaging sheet of claim 14, wherein said foam defines a **substantially** planar face.

16. (currently amended) The protective packaging sheet of claim 13, further comprising printed indicia on said ~~substantially~~ planar face.

17. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said foam is presented on both the front and rear surfaces of said sheet, at levels coelevational with outermost points of the front and rear surfaces.

18. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said sheet is made of a hardened thermoplastic material.

19. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of about 57 lbf/in² without being flattened.

20. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 10, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of from about 390 to less than about 500 lbf/in² without being totally flattened.

21. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein said material layer is made of hardened thermoplastic.

22. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of about 57 lbf/in² without being flattened.

23. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of from about 390 to less than about 500 lbf/in² without being totally flattened.

24. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein said material layer has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 1 mm.

25. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein an initial thickness of said sheet is defined as a distance between outermost portions on opposite sides thereof when no load is applied on said sheet, said material layer having an elasticity sufficient to allow said sheet to regain at least 70 % of the initial thickness after said sheet being completely flattened.

26. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 1, wherein an initial thickness of said sheet is defined as a distance between outermost portions on opposite sides thereof when no load is applied on said sheet, said material layer having an elasticity sufficient to allow said sheet to regain from about 70 to about 80 % of the initial thickness after said sheet being completely flattened.

27-28. (cancelled)

29. (previously added) A protective packaging sheet, comprising a thermoplastic layer that is shaped to have a repeating pattern, wherein

the repeating pattern comprises shaped protuberances juxtaposed with each other to provide a gap around each of said shaped protuberances, the shaped protuberances being positioned in such a way that every straight line projected onto said sheet cuts through at least one of the shaped protuberances and at least one of the gaps; and

the thermoplastic layer has a sufficient strength to maintain the repeating pattern when no external force is acting on said layer.

30. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein each of said shaped protuberances has a top surface and side walls extending downwardly from the top surface, the top surfaces of said shaped protuberances together define a top contacting surface of said sheet, said sheet further having a bottom contacting surface spaced from said top contacting surface by a distance greater than a material thickness of said thermoplastic layer.

31. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 30, further comprising an additional material layer laminated to said thermoplastic layer and defining the bottom contacting surface.

32. (currently amended) The protective packaging sheet of claim 31, wherein said material layer and the bottom contacting surface are substantially planar.

33. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 31, further comprising air trapped between said thermoplastic layer and said additional material layer.

34. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 32, further comprising air trapped between said thermoplastic layer and said additional material layer.

35. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein said sheet has a compression strength sufficient to sustain a pressure of about 57 lbf/in² without being flattened.

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36. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 29, wherein said thermoplastic layer has a material thickness of from about 0.5 to about 1 mm.

37. (previously added) The protective packaging sheet of claim 30, wherein an initial thickness of said sheet is defined as the distance between said contacting surfaces when no load is applied on said sheet, said thermoplastic layer having an elasticity sufficient to allow said sheet to regain at least 70 % of the initial thickness after said sheet being completely flattened.